

Message Text

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67

ACTION OPIC-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 L-03 /027 W

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R 211228Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC 3525

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PLEASE PASS OPIC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS : EINV, BA

SUBJECT : POSSIBLE OPIC PROGRAM MANAMA

REFS : (A) STATE 231161 (B) STATE 231865

1. CHARGE HAND-DELIVERED LETTER TO GOB MINISTER OF STATE FOR LEGAL AFFAIRS DR. HUSSAIN M. AL-BAHARNA SEPT. 21. LETTER INCORPORATED SUGGESTED CHANGES IN TEXT OF AGREEMENT (REF B, PARA 3); LETTER ALSO NOTED THAT ZOLA AND BAZARIAN PLANNED TO BE IN MANAMA FOR FINANCIAL TIMES SEMINAR AND HOPED TO HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS STATUS OF THE AGREEMENT WITH AL-BAHARNA.

2. AL-BAHARNA SAID HE WOULD STUDY SUGGESTED CHANGES AND SAID HE WOULD BE HAPPY TO SEE OFFICIALS, THAT HE EXPECTED TO BE IN BAHRAIN OCTOBER 19-20.

3. COMMENT: EMBASSY WELCOMES VISIT AND WILL ARRANGE CALL ON MINISTER, BUT WE REMAIN VERY, VERY PESSIMISTIC ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF EARLY CONCLUSION OF OPIC AGREEMENT (SEE MANAMA 620 AND PREVIOUS). WHILE DIFFERENT THEORIES HAVE BEEN FLOATED OVER THE YEARS AS TO REASONS FOR THE GOB FOOT-DRAGGING ON THE OPIC AGREEMENT (AND WE ARE NOT ANY MORE CONFIDENT NOW THAN WE HAVE BEEN OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS THAT WE UNDERSTAND THEIR INHIBITIONS IN REGARD TO OPIC), THE ONE IRREFUTABLE FACT SEEMS TO BE THAT IT IS NOT OF MUCH INTEREST TO THE GOB.

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4. ASSUME THAT ZOLA AND BAZARIAN HAVE REQUESTED SEMINAR ORGANIZERS TO MAKE HOTEL RESERVATIONS FOR THEM. ENTIRE BAHRAIN HILTON HAS BEEN RESERVED BY THE SEMINAR AND WE ARE UNABLE MAKE ACCOMODATION ARRANGEMENTS. ADVISE.
BURLEIGH

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